

West Valley Church
Pastor James Lounsberry
7/17/16

Revealed:
Uncovering the Mystery of Revelation
Part Eight: The Seventh Trumpet
Revelation 11:15-19

So I am going to get the opportunity to do a little introduction to our message this morning. If you are new to us, or if you are bad with names like I am, my name is Bethany and I just happen to be attached to our preacher this morning. James is our youth pastor, and he just happens to be my husband.

We are going to be celebrating in September 11 years of marriage, which is not a lot, but we are excited about how much time that is. We are really blessed to be in this community of faith where there are such long-standing marriages. We get to be blessed by all the marriages around us. Last year for our 10 year anniversary we were able to go to Maui. We've been able to do that a couple of times. We did it for our five year and we loved it so much we said let's do it again in five years. So we planned on our 10 years and we did it again. Thank you for letting me steal him and take him to the beach, because I know it meant he missed being with you a couple of those Sundays.

We discovered on our vacations together we just like to be simple and laid back and relax and have no agenda. So we eat well, and we sleep well, and then we plan out activities as the day rolls out. One of our favorite things that we have started to do on these trips, because we're planning on doing it again in four more years, is to go to the beach every morning. There is a beach that is essentially, in the early morning, with nobody there. We have our very own private beach; so we do that every morning. When the crowds start to flood in we leave and then plan the rest of our day. One of those days we wanted to plan a hike and I said, okay, so I started to look up some stuff. We knew there would be some hiking but we didn't want do something that would be a whole day because we had already spent half the day at the beach. The whole day hike, you know, pack your stuff and be out all day. But we did know we wanted to do a little bit longer, or at least a little bit more than just a flat walk. We wanted to do a little bit of a hike and have some views so I started doing some research, I saw a hike that I thought looked perfect for us and set some expectations, and then I found the Waihee Ridge Trail. I set expectations for James as I looked and did my trail guide stuff to the best of my ability. Yeah, I know how to read this; I know what to look for. I took a look at what we were going to be doing and said, okay, it's going to be a couple miles (that's about as much detail as he needed). It's going to be up, there's going to be some elevation, there's going to be some challenging, and there's going to be some beautiful views. It's probably going to be about an hour, maybe a little more than an hour roundtrip.

Well, somehow, it really came to fruition that what I knew about reading trail guides was different than what actually happens in the real world. My base knowledge of what it means, cause I've been actively running and I've been doing like seven miles, and this wasn't that long. I knew I could do four or five miles walking in an hour or so. I thought, okay, it's going to be

about an hour. That's why I said, it's going to be about an hour, and it's going to be an hour roundtrip. So that means it's going to be about 30 minutes up and 30 minutes down and there's going to be some elevation. So it means we are going to be going up quite a bit in that 30 minutes. Okay, so are we ready for that? He said, yeah, we are ready for that. We started on the trail and got going. I realized that I have done a lot of little hikes and not a lot of ridges, there is something different about that. It's not that it is more difficult or that it is easier, it's that my perception was off. Because what happens on a ridge is that you go up and up, and you see sky and you go, we're almost there. Nope, nope, we're not almost there. Okay we're almost there, we're almost there. Nope, nope, we're not almost there. Okay we're almost there, we're almost there. No we're not. So the phrase, oh it's just over that rise, became really important because James said, how much further. And I said, this has got to be it and it's just over this rise, we're going to hit the end right here. We've got to do this little climb and that's it. So I think we've got a picture. Here is one point in the hike. This is one of them. So that clearly is the top, absolutely. Like any doubt when you're looking at that, there's nowhere else to go? That's the top. So that's what we proceeded to do and well over an hour, not at the top yet. James was (I'm sure none of guys have ever done this to your wife), he was done with this little fun hike. He's like, well, let's just turn around. I said, no, we're not at the top yet. We gotta keep doing it; we've got to muscle through it. Let's get through it, let's do the hard work. Not to mention that our path was kinda funky. There was this muddy dirt stuff. You could tell it had rained previously and people had come and tromped – there were these huge foot indents. And you didn't want to step in them because then your foot was here so you kinda – I don't know, the footing was crazy. But at that point, well over an hour, we're still not to the top. I'm still just trying to enjoy the elevation. Just so you know what the real stats are, if you are a real trail person, this might mean more to you than to me at that moment, so it was 4 ½ miles round trip. I think that is about what I said. It actually said one to three hours roundtrip and I just read the one hour and a 1500 foot incline gain during that time. So that didn't mean anything to me in the real world. It just meant we were going to go up. And it's not 10,000 feet like Denver. It's just 1500 feet – like how hard could that be? So what ended up happening is I needed to take some breaks and I proceeded to take some pictures. I took this picture. James was done and he didn't want to give up on me, so he just went on ahead, faster, harder, not as happy, but he went. So in this next picture you can see a little red circle – that's him way up there. He was going to make it, because I assured him, it's got to be time. That's got to be the top. So this has got to be our last rise. He said I'm going to get there. And I said I'll catch up with you. He vaulted on ahead of me, and I hate to say it, but that wasn't the top. But it did end up being the top for us.

So if we're thinking about Revelation and this mountain of a sermon series we've had this summer, I don't know what your expectations have been. A little bit of my expectation has been, because I am a PK (pastor's kid), religion major, PW (pastor's wife) – Revelation did not thrill me because I knew what that was going to mean. It was going to be a lot of hard work. There is going to be a lot of interpretation. There was going to be a lot of digging. There was going to be a lot defusing all this other stuff that was going on. And it was probably going to be confusing and I wasn't all that excited about it. I don't know what expectation you've got, but maybe you're like James on that trail, not really having any content or any knowledge about what this book has for us, what God's message is for our life today. So if you just put it in the hands of the pastors, you can say okay, I don't know anything about this. I'm just along for the ride discovering it as it unfolds. Maybe you are like me with knowledge, but it's not applicable to the world. For me some of Revelation has just been hard to figure out. In my life, how does this

apply to me today? Okay, I can read it and there are words and I understand those words, but it doesn't have any meaning for what I need to do about it today. It doesn't have that 1500 foot elevation gain in two miles kind of meaning. I think our pastors have done an incredible job of helping us dissect and really look at the important parts, to really pick all this really confusing message out.

But I will tell you, on a rich hike, there's something else. At the top of each one of those rises there's a plateau, which is why you can't see the next rise. You get to do this little plateau and you get to see these beautiful clearings, beautiful views and it's calm. It's not an elevation; it's this nice plateau. Here's a picture of them. This opening where the sky is just open and it's clear with no confusion, no hard work, just the beauty of it.

So I have good news, today's message from Revelation, we're on the clearing, we're on a little of a plateau. We've been doing a lot of hard work. I hope you felt it was a lot of hard work because it's supposed to feel like hard work. This isn't an easy message, straight forward. Today we have something to look forward to in a clear straight forward message. We can take a deep breath; we can rest in what God has for us. It's not that it's easy to hear God's voice, but this one he has made a lot clearer for us. Let's get on this journey, let's keep moving forward knowing that we are going to have another rise. Let's move forward together.

Bethany Lounsberry prayed.

Pastor James Lounsberry:

I did not put this on Bethany – she volunteer to do the intro. I told her that if she wanted to do that – sure!

Last week I shared at the end of the sermon about how I have been gone a lot these last few weeks. In fact I have been home for a whole week, which has been great. Life has been very busy and chaotic, so I wanted to share a little bit about what has been going on these last few weeks. Back on June 17, I got the joy of heading out of town and meeting up with Bethany's family in Yellowstone. I have a slide with these beautiful pictures of Yellowstone that we got to be a part of. It was really awesome. I will tell you in these last three weeks, until last week, I drove a total of 3400 miles and went through six different states. It wasn't that I clipped through a state, I went THROUGH the state. So I have done a lot of driving, I've sat in a lot of cars and vans and lots of stuff. But in the midst of it, this was part of that experience. I got to spend about a week with her family in Yellowstone. I never realized all that's there. You hear about Old Faithful, that kind of thing. We got to see Old Faithful and we were really impressed, but I was not as impressed as I was with some of the other things we got to see. We got to see a lot of animals and it was also just a great time with family and just spending time together. That was one phase of my time away.

Then I got home on Sunday night the 26th. In two days I had to do my laundry, repack, make sure I had all the final details, and then get ready to take six adults and 40 students to LA. So that is the next set of pictures. You see in the Happenings we had an awesome time of working and serving in the city of LA. We got to learn a lot about the city, the needs there, then being a part of that experience there. There is something to be said about going on a trip like that and getting to watch students give of themselves and do this work and be the hands and feet of Christ in all sorts of different kinds of opportunities. It was such a blessing, a lot of fun; it was a lot of work,

a lot of driving, a lot of me trying to keep everyone together. Unfortunately Grandview, who brought about 14 of those 40 kids, their youth pastor had some family things that came up and he could not go. So it became not us together working on this but it became me running the whole thing. So this gives you a perspective of what my life has been like the last few weeks, but there is something to be said in all of this about getting to see God's kingdom in these different aspects of life. And that's why I wanted to share these things with you, it really does tie in this morning with the message and where we are going.

To start off I want to read a passage out of Matthew, Jesus commands us to do this when we pray:

“This then is how you should pray, Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:9-10)

I'm sure many of you have recited that prayer. You have reflected on it, we have done sermons on it, we've mentioned it, we've talked about it. It is a big part and Jesus commands us to do that. Jesus tells the disciples to do this. The reason behind that is we want to see God's kingdom on earth. So we need to be praying that prayer. Pray that his kingdom will come and his will will be done here in this place.

There is something to be said as we come into the second half of chapter 11. Pastor Mike shared last week the first half of chapter 11 and as we were going through that he was talking about the two witnesses, their death and them being there as a sight to see and their resurrection and the earthquake that comes and wipes out a large group of people. Then the many that come to repentance of God. That's what we finished off with last week with verse 14 of chapter 11.

I want to read one part that Pastor Mike emphasized at the end of that message last week. He said, “We have a part in that story, we have a message of the good news of God for the entire world that we can share by introducing people to Jesus, telling them who he is and how much he loves them.” I want you to be thinking about that because it really does tie into this morning's message in Revelation. It is a call to us and what God wants to do here in this place.

So let's go on. We're going to start at verse 15 of Revelation chapter 11, and it says this:

“The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever.” And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying: “We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. The nations were angry, and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your people who revere your name, both great and small—and for destroying those who destroy the earth.” Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a severe hailstorm.” (Revelation 11:15-19, niv)

A few weeks ago Pastor led us through the six trumpets. He talked about each of those trumpets and the different things that came with those. They brought different plagues and woes and different things that happened all the way to this point. Then last week we had this interlude, this break in the six trumpets. Everyone single one of those trumpets has been this place of God's

“call to action” for his people. With all the sin and evil that has been in this world, God has been trying through these trumpets to call us back to repentance. So each one of these trumpets represented that, all the way to this final one.

But there is something different about this trumpet. This trumpet comes with a heavenly announcement. It is joy, it's a celebration. It's different than the other ones because the other ones brought ugly things into the world. It's interesting that when God tends to do this and calls us and calls for us, a lot of times we tend not to listen. If you think about it, God is trying to call us to action, to call our attention to him. Oftentimes we are not very good at wanting to listen. Even when we know we are doing the wrong thing, being willing to follow, he calls us out on it.

I like how Dr. Carol Rotz puts it. She puts it this way: “Each of the seven trumpets was God's voice calling his fallen creation to repentance. The announcement of good news to John's readers meant ‘woe to the rebellious world order.’” So the seventh trumpet is a little different because it is that celebration because it is God's coming. It's not a plague, it's a joy and we get to see this hymn and the elders singing the praise chorus, singing out to God. It's a lot like we read earlier at the beginning of Revelation. John talks about his encounter with Christ, and when he does that for the first time in his vision, it comes with this loud announcement, this voice calling out to Christ. The same thing is happening here; John is experiencing these majestic voices singing praises and bringing this announcement of God's coming to the earth.

As we think about that seventh trumpet, maybe some of you have thought about it, I'm going to make you aware of it. There have been within these trumpets these woes. In chapter 9 we heard about a woe and last week it refers to another woe. There's been two, but there's supposed to be a third. So where is the woe in this celebration and this announcement, where is the woe. Well the woe is the seventh trumpet. Think about it, if you look at life and you look at God calling out to us, there is going to be a time when God is going to be done. And so oftentimes we think, what's the next thing, what's that thing that's going to happen next. There's going to be the point when God is going to say, it's done. And so the calling of the seventh trumpet, that celebration, is also the end. God's done calling out trying to bring us home. There's a point when it is all said and done. So the woe really does come just because of that declaration. God's not doing anything more.

There's going to be a lot more stuff we're going to be reading on in the next few weeks, but that is what that seventh trumpet really is. It's us realizing that it's complete. Remember, what is seven? Complete. It's that idea that it is complete. So here's the seventh trumpet and it's done. There's nothing more going on beyond this in the sense that God is trying to grab us and trying to get our attention. And so that is a reflection of that third woe. So when we think about that, we think about trying to live life and do the things we're trying to do.

One of the things I couldn't help but think about was why do we think that waiting until the right time to change to go to God or finally repent is the right approach to living life with God. So often I think a lot of us tend to think, well, I like this idea of having a relationship with God. I want this opportunity to be in heaven. But you know what; I'm going to live life. There's too many things in life I going to miss out on if I choose to follow God and just do what God wants me to do and not do what I want to do. So often we get to this place that we play this game where we want to try to do it our way, not realizing that we're missing out on a whole lot more. And so when we reflect back on life, I think, a lot of times, some of you might have this feeling at times where you think, if I would have just chosen to follow God earlier on. Think of all the things I

could have experienced and the things I could have done and how God could have used me. Now I don't want you to think, well I'm missing out, because God still wants to use you now. But the truth is that sometimes we get caught up in this thought that we'll just play the game. We'll play the game, I'll do the church thing, I'll learn, but I'm still going to live life my way. And God is sitting, trying to calling us to him and calling us home and we're willing to play the game of, God, you know I hear you, I really don't want to do this yet. And that's what's happening here is that God keeps calling out to his people and the people are not responding. Just look around us. The world is still dealing with this today. God is trying to call out to us. He is trying to call us to repentance and call us to this relationship with him. And we say...I'll wait. I still want to live my life. I've still got things I want to do and the fun that I want to have. But when the time is right, I'll make it happen. Well just think of it this way, what happens when it is done? What happens when the trumpet blows and you weren't there listening and ready? God wants to do a great thing in each and every one of us and all we have to do is trust him and follow. We don't want to do it yet. I want to do it my way. I want to do it in my time. Well, maybe God's time is better than yours.

So as we go through I want to break the next few verses down. I want to reread Revelation 11:16 and it says this:

“And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God.” (Revelation 11:16, niv)

Now we come back to this place with the 24 elders. If you look back in chapter 4 we encountered these same people. They're all there worshipping God. And now they are falling on their faces. And what this is reminding us of is that John is in the throne room. He is there in the presence of God, in the throne room watching all that is happening. This is where the reminder of the 24 elders comes from, the reminder to us that we are in the throne room as we are reading this vision. And then they all bowed down and worshiped God, singing this hymn.

Bethany mentioned earlier that maybe we'll get me to sing. I could have been creative. There's really not a song for the words that I could find. I could just make up a hymn for you but I'm not going to do that because that would really do a disservice to the Word of God. So I'm just going to let you know that made the decision not to do that, and bless you with my beautiful voice. It's beautiful, trust me.

But all that to say, they bring this hymn and this chorus and proclaim God and his coming. I'm just going to read the first part to you and we'll keep breaking it down from there. In the first part they say,

“We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty.” (Revelation 11:17a, niv)

I'm just going to stop there because there is something important to that phrase, Lord God Almighty. As I was going through the time of studying and working through this passage this week, one of the things that stood out to me was that one of the writers was talking about the Greek word for Almighty that is used here. The Greek word is *Pantokrator*. *Pantokrator* is the word that is used for this term Almighty. The Lord God Almighty phrase is used seven times throughout the book of Revelation and it is always the Greek term *Pantokrator*. What that phrase means is, and it is also used in the Old Testament, is this reflection of our God, Yahweh of Hosts, God of Hosts. So this phrase which is used throughout Revelation is basically stating this God of military implications. Every time you read it, it involves military implications. It is

basically implicating that God is coming for the battle. He is coming for war. He is coming to fight the battle. That's what we are experiencing here when we read this passage, God is coming and he is ready to do battle with evil. We get to see God come and begin the process of reclaiming what is rightfully his.

And then it goes on to say in verse 17...

“We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.” (Revelation 11:17, niv)

So we can begin to see that God is reclaiming what is rightfully his, what he has created. And if you know the One who is and who was, we've read that before back in Revelation 1:8. It says:

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.” (Revelation 1:8, niv)

There is a phrase missing out of that part where the 24 elders proclaim, right? Did they say “who is”? Did they say “who was”? But there is no “to come”. Why? Because the “to come” is now, “the is”. He is there, it is now, it is not happening, there is no more to come, it is coming now. That is why it just “is”. This “is” and “who was”. There is no more “to come”. We're not waiting anymore, God is now! And that is the very cool thing if you think about it. There is nothing else. God is now. God is saying, I am here! It's mine.

And so we get to proclaim it, celebrate the fact that God is coming and that He will be the “is”. The “is” is all that matters from here on out. So we get to reflect on that knowing that there is going to be a point in time when God is going to say, now it is, it's time.

As we think about the relationship we have with God, we reflect that God is having to reclaim. Well, why is he having to reclaim? Throughout Scripture we read in so many places where satan is referenced as one who has power on this earth. One of the passages that stood out to me that I thought would be good to share is out of Matthew chapter 4 when Jesus is facing temptation. It says this:

“The devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ‘All this I will give you,’ he said, ‘if you will bow down and worship me.’” (Matthew 4:8, niv)

This is just one of the few places we can find throughout scriptures where satan really shows this power of what he can do to manipulate. We face this every day. We go through life and we live our life and we face temptation. Satan has this power to guide us away from truly seeing God and his glory to his direction. So satan has this grasp of things and so really what is happening here is that God is coming and saying, it's done. Whatever you had is no more because it is mine. It is my creation, I made this and I am going to reclaim it. I am here to reign.

So we get to celebrate with the elders with the idea that God is going to come and it is going to be no more. Satan and his evil ways will not have any power because of what God is about to do.

Then we go on, Revelation 11:18 says:

“The nations were angry, and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your people who revere your name, both great and small—and for destroying those who destroy the earth.” (Revelation 11:18, niv)

So God's judgment in this is saying that, it is coming. As he comes he is going to bring judgment on those who have brought evil, on those who have brought destruction. And in the middle of that we are going to find that God is going to reward those who have chosen to really love and follow and proclaim his name and his glory.

So here we are in life as we do these things and as we seek him out. God really wants this relationship. As we live it out, it doesn't matter how big we are or no matter where we have been and no matter what we have done, as long as we have trusted in him and accepted him into our life, he is going to bless us.

I love what the writer in Hebrews says:

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.” (Hebrews 11:6, niv)

As we choose to seek God, as we choose to have this relationship with him, we will be rewarded. It doesn't matter how big or how small, how great we are, as long as we have trusted him and accepted him into our life, we get to be rewarded. Amen!

And so we get to be excited about the fact that God, when this time comes, the seventh trumpet blows, and God comes to reclaim what is rightfully his and casts out all that is evil in this world, and we know we get to be in his presence. That is going to be so powerful and so amazing that we won't know what else to do but bow down as well and give him praise.

And then it goes on in verse 19 and says this:

“Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a severe hailstorm.” (Revelation 11:19, niv)

Now remember at the beginning of this chapter we find John is measuring the temple. So he is doing his work, measuring the temple. He's doing all that. And what that reflection is, especially as we get into the end of this chapter, is that we are beginning to see this presence of God that gets to come through his temple. The opening of the Ark of the Covenant, as you read in the Old Testament, played a key role because that is where God's presence was. And as they moved the Ark, God's presence would go. That was that's connection. So as the temple was opened and revealed you could see the Ark, and that is the reminder to us, God's presence is here, in this place, in this temple. And now we are in that everlasting presence of God. And so now all of a sudden we have this connection with him that we get to have and it's awesome because we don't have to just get little glimpses of it, we get to have it all the time. There is something to what is going on here. It's really exciting and powerful. I hope it opens for you to realize there will be a point where even things that we are talking about this morning, the evil world, will be no more. We will get to be in the presence of God, the everlasting presence of God, where we will be filled with his love and encouragement. We will not have to worry about the destruction going on around us. We will just be in this beautiful place worshipping God – something amazing to think about when we reflect on that.

So, all said and done, what do we take from this? There's a lot, I think, we can take away from this. You know as I shared at the beginning, there is something to be said about getting to have kingdom experiences as we pray the Lord's Prayer, Your kingdom come, Your will be done. We've read in this passage, this is the moment when it is all happening. God's kingdom is

coming, and now he is going to reclaim all that is his. But when we think about life, I think for some of you in this room, you may have prayed that prayer and you are wondering, I don't see God's kingdom come very often, or I don't know if I have really experienced it. Well I can tell you, in my own personal life, in my own moments, it's when I've been able to be in his creation. Today I would encourage you to do, if you need to have that feeling of his kingdom, drive up on the hill. Go sit on the top of the hill and look into the valley. Look at the orchards, look at the city. It will be real peaceful. Look around, it's real hard to not be awestruck by his kingdom and his creation. To have those feelings is overwhelming. And so if you haven't had that experience, I'd say just go up there and ask God, "God, reveal yourself in this moment as I sit up here and I just see what you have done." You might be surprised what you will see and what you will experience. When we were in Yellowstone, I was blown away with the beauty. I had no clue what I was walking into, seeing the geysers and the different things that we got to go and see. Seeing the sights, I was just in awe. And I get this privilege of being a youth pastor, taking teenagers on mission trips and opportunities where we can go serve or even just an experience of watching them just worship God in youth group. And let me tell you, there is nothing cooler than seeing God's kingdom in those moments when I get to walk hand in hand with these students, serving with them and worshipping with them and going, "look what God is doing with young people". There's something powerful to that, and it's moving. It's those moments when we ask God to fill us with his presence and we just go, "Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah". This is what it is going to be like in heaven.

A lot of our students that went to NYC last year, and there were glimpses of heaven just sitting in an arena of over 6,000 other teenagers, all praising God. Something cool about his kingdom and that encounter we get to have with God in that moment.

So we look at this passage and we think about life. I would encourage you to be thinking about where you are at in this relationship with God. You know this seventh trumpet is this reminder to us that, guess what, it's going to be done. So where are you at? Are you playing this game of, God, I want to do my thing, and I know you are there, and why do you keep doing that. Are you going to miss out on something more? Really? I think God has bigger things for you than you realize if you are playing that game. I would encourage you to be praying about where you need to be. There needs to be some change within you because the seventh trumpet may blow and you may not realize it came. And it's all done. So where is that for you?

So here is the next thing for you to think about out of these passages. There's going to be a moment when he is going to be here and it's going to be over. All this stuff that we think about and worry about and stress about and are fearful of, it's going to be done. We get to celebrate with him. We need to praise him and worship him and not have to worry about all that other garbage that's going on in our world today, because he is going to reclaim it all. There's something pretty cool about that. Right? It's exciting! Something we get to walk away with is the calm that will be the "is". We get that.

So, I'm going to pick on Joey. He brought a phrase to the youth group that gets used a lot. What is it? "Jesus tingles!" He brought the phrase, he coined it. I'm going to put a stamp on it – it's his quote. But it's kinda cool. We went on a mission trip and one of our students goes, I got to serve today. They shared about getting to serve at the rescue mission, and they said, I had "Jesus tingles". Those kingdom moments get us excited about what God is doing within us and through us and around us. What are you doing to seek for those moments? Are you feeling them? Whether that is in worship, whether that is in the message you hear, or your devotions. Here it

is, God, we don't know if we are going to be there when the time comes and he is here blowing the trumpet – or the final trumpet blows – and we see God's kingdom coming. We don't know if we are going to be here for that. But you do have moments when you are going to have the "Jesus tingles". If you seek God, you will have "Jesus tingle" moments. I know I am using this a lot, but it's good stuff. God wants to do that with each and every one of you. So what are you doing to seek those moments, to see his kingdom here on this earth? Do it now, not waiting for all of this stuff to happen.

This week was the clearing. Next week we are going to turn the corner. We're going to see the ridge. It's going to be a lot more to go through. So I hope you are ready for it. I hope you got a chance to breathe today, a little bit easier. Go out, have a good week and come back ready to see what God has to reveal to us as we finish out the book of Revelation.